

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejections of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested. Applicants have attempted to address every ground for rejection in the Office Action dated August 5, 2011 (Paper No. 20110728) and believe the application is now in condition for allowance. The specification and the claims have been amended to better describe the invention.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants acknowledge that claim 10 is objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully defer acceptance of this claim at this time in view of the following remarks.

Claims 3, 4, 10 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the phrases “a first sealing segment” in claim 3, “the first holding segment” in claim 3 and “in particular” in claims 4, 10 and 17-19 are unclear or have been included in the claims twice. Applicants have amended the claims as shown above to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1-9 and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,700,784 to DeBrock. Applicants disagree with and traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

DeBrock discloses a liquid applicator including a container “C” with a threaded neck 10 and an inner support 13 positioned on the top of the container that

supports a ball 14. A ball retainer 15 threadingly engages the neck 10 and holds the ball 14 on the inner support 13 as shown in FIGs. 1 and 3.

In contrast, amended claim 1 recites, among other things, a roller receiving device for a packaging system for fluids. The device including “a container for receiving a fluid, a roller and a roller receiving device . . . [having] a first part for receiving the roller in the first part, as well as a second part, different from the first part and held radially outwardly on the first part, the first part forming a first sealing segment for sealing the roller receiving device relative to the container, and the second part forming a first holding segment for forming a locking connection between the roller receiving device and the container.” DeBrock fails to disclose such subject matter.

The ball 14 in DeBrock is held in a different way than the claimed invention. In DeBrock, the ball 14 is supported by the “inner support” 13 and retained in position by the ball retainer and sealing device 15. Thus, the inner support 13 in DeBrock serves as a soft support for the ball 14 as well as forms a seal with the container “C.” The ball retainer 15 presses against the flange 18 of the inner support 13 and thereby against the sealing surface 12 of the container to prevent the fluid in the container from leaking out (Col. 2, lines 3-5). Also, as shown in FIGs. 1 and 3 of DeBrock, the ball retainer 15 contacts and presses on the outer surface of the ball 14 thereby clamping down on the ball and preventing movement of the ball. The clamping force of the ball

retainer 15 is desired in DeBrock because it provides a seal between the lip 26 and the ball 14 (Col. 2, lines 43-48).

In contrast, the claimed invention includes a first part 26 that supports and holds the ball/roller 12 and a second part 28 that is connected to a radially outward portion of the first part for securing the first part to the container. The second part 28 does not contact or engage the roller 12 in any way and therefore does not interfere or inhibit the movement of the roller as in DeBrock.

Furthermore, the second part 28 of the claimed invention engages the radially outward surface of the first part 26 for securing the first part to the container “C.” In DeBrock, the ball retainer (second part) 15 is threadingly connected to the threads formed on the outer surface of the container. Thus, DeBrock fails to disclose a ball retaining device/second part that is connected to or held “radially outwardly” a first part.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that amended claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, are each patentably distinguished over DeBrock and in condition for allowance.

New claim 21 includes similar subject matter to amended claim 1. Specifically, new claim 21 recites, among other things, a roller receiving device for a packaging system for fluids, the packaging system including “a container for receiving a fluid; a roller and a roller receiving device for receiving the roller and for holding the roller on the container, the roller receiving device forms a first sealing segment for

sealing the roller receiving device relative to the container, and forms a first holding segment for the formation of a locking connection between the roller receiving device and the container, the first holding segment being held radially outwardly on the first sealing segment, the first sealing segment and the first holding segment being functionally separate and/or situated at a distance from one another and/or essentially decoupled from one another.” As stated above, DeBrock fails to disclose or suggest such subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that new claim 21 is patentably distinguished over the DeBrock and in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the above-identified remarks, the claims in their present form are patentably distinct over the art of record. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, the

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Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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